Abstract

The present invention relates to a surfactant composition containing a composition containing a diol derivative (I) and a surfactant:

$$R^3$$
 $CH-OR^2$
 $CH-OH$
 R^4
 CH

$$R^1$$
— CH — CH_2 (II)

$$R^2$$
 —OH (III)

wherein R^1 is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 4 to 22 carbons, R^2 is an alkyl or alkenyl group having 1 to 18 carbon atoms and one of R^3 and R^4 is a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkenyl group having 4 to 22 carbon atoms and derived from R^1 and the other is a hydrogen atom.